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EXAMINER

FAN, HONGMIN

ART UNIT

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2612

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims

1. Claims 11-12, 14-20 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11-12, 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al (US 2002/0041239) in view of Pawlicki et al (US 7038577).

As to claim 11, referring to Fig. 1 and 6, Shimizu et al disclosed a parking aid system includes a display unit to visually display to a driver a target parking position, a subject vehicle position, an expected parking position in the case where the subject vehicle travels with a predetermined steering angle, and an operation switch for selecting a parking aid mode (¶0008, line 2-6). Further, the parking aid system includes a display unit to visually display to a driver a target parking position, a subject vehicle position, an expected parking position in the case where the subject vehicle travels with a predetermined steering angle, and an operation switch for selecting a parking aid mode (¶0010).

Shimizu et al did not disclose determining potential intersection with oncoming traffic and providing a warning signal. However, one of ordinary skills in the readily recognizes that when a driver is trying to parking in this situation, oncoming traffic avoidance would prevent

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head on collision. Furthermore, oncoming traffic detection system is well known in the art and widely used. Pawlicki et al teach a object detection system for vehicle wherein the lane departure warning system may be operable in response to a single forward facing camera to monitor the lane markings 113e along the road surface and monitor the potential presence of oncoming traffic in an adjacent lane or lanes. Once the presence of oncoming traffic has been established, the lane departure warning system may issue an urgent audible warning if the vehicle begins to cross the lane marking 113e. Furthermore, if the vehicle has already begun to cross into the oncoming traffic lane before oncoming traffic is detected, the lane departure warning system may issue the urgent warning when oncoming traffic is detected. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate determining potential intersection with oncoming traffic and providing a warning signal in Shimizu's system in order to avoid head on collision.

As to claim 12, still referring to Fig. 6, Shimizu et al show the subject vehicle position and expected (i.e. final) parking position.

As claim 14, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 11.

As claim 15, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 11.

As claim 16, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 11.

As claim 17, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 11.

As claim 18, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 11.

As to claim 19, Shimizu et al teach a controller 1 including a microcomputer.

As claim 20, the claim is interpreted and rejected as claim 11.

Conclusion

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hongmin Fan whose telephone number is 571-272-2784. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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HF

/Daniel Wu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2612